

**2003-47**

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Michigan Supreme Court,

I am writing in reference to the Court Rule No. 2003-47 now in consideration before the Michigan Supreme Court. As a 38-year employee of National Steel(formerly Great Lakes), I was exposed repeatedly to materials containing asbestos. While I do not have cancer related to my exposure, I do have a non-cancer related lung disease known as asbestosis.

If the proposed Court Rule No. 2003-47 is adopted, I will loose my right to seek damages related to this illness. If adopted, this rule will change the long standing Michigan laws that hold businesses accountable for exposing their employees to known carcinogens.

As I understand the separation of powers between the judicial and legislative branches of our government, it is the responsibility of our legislators to create laws, and the responsibility of our judges to interpret these laws. Why then is the Supreme Court of Michigan being asked to change a law? It seems to me that this is not within their power, and is certainly not within the best interests of Michigan workers.

Robert L. Mesler